

**District IV Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
June 2, 2004  
[www.wichita.gov](http://www.wichita.gov)**

The **District IV Advisory Board Meeting** was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Stanley Neighborhood Center. In attendance were six (6) District Advisory Board members, five (5) staff and approximately eighteen (18) citizens with fourteen (14) signing in.

**Members Present**

Jerry McGinty  
Michael Gisick  
Doug Leeper  
Ed Koon  
Damon Burrows  
Marjorie Griffith  
Council Member Gray

**Staff Present**

Officer Stevens, Police  
Officer Roets, Police  
Rob Younkin, Public Works  
Brandon Kauffman, City Manager's Office

**Members Absent**

Rex Gray  
Tom Englemann  
Jim Benton

**Guests**

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**Order of Business**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The agenda for the June 2, 2004 meeting was approved as written.

The minutes for April 7, 2004 were approved as written.

The minutes for May 20, 2004 were approved with changes.

**Public Agenda**

*The Public Agenda allows members of the public to present matters to the District Advisory Board. Each presentation is limited to a period of five minutes unless extended by the Board.*

**Tina Lecardopous, 619 E 54 St South**

Tina stated that they were having problems with a gentleman in their neighborhood that has four cars and is parking them on the street and in front of peoples mailboxes. She stated that they have brought in a mediator to resolve the situation and the individual no longer parks in front of her mailbox but he is parking in front of other neighbors

mailboxes. All of the cars are tagged and operational and community police officers have been out to talk with the gentleman about parking on the street. Tina requested that the city do something to stop this individual from parking his cars on the street.

**Melissa Hawkens, 3319 S Palisade**

Stated that she lived next door to a house that was making methamphetamines and is concerned about how close it was to the area school. She stated that she has kids who have played with the children that lived at the house and it concerns her that this was a Section 8 house and they do not have any regulations regarding previous convictions for drugs. She developed some proposals that she outlined in a letter to the DAB members and Council Member Gray and would like someone to follow up on them. **Council Member Gray** stated that he would discuss with police the proposals and call her after he had reviewed them. He felt that some of them were more federal level regulations than local.

**Tobacco Free Wichita**

**Jennifer Furgeson**, Tobacco Free Wichita stated that she was speaking to the DAB because of her personal interest in making Wichita a smoke free environment. She stated that her son has cystic fibrosis and that he cannot be around smoke because of the disease. She would like to see the City Council adopt an ordinance that would ban smoke in public places in the City of Wichita.

**Teresa Burrton**, stated she lives in District IV and has to take a plethora of allergy medicines so that she can breath and operate on a daily basis. She stated that she cannot be around places that allow smoke in public places because if she smells smoke it affects her so bad that she cannot breath. She stated that the city should treat handicaps the same even though she does not have a physical handicap, the city should accommodate people who have non-visible handicaps. She stated that she would like a clean air ordinance enacted for the City of Wichita.

**Jennifer Furgeson** stated that she is a volunteer with Tobacco Free Wichita and that they have received endorsements form over 500 grassroots organization supporters such as medical organizations. Furgeson stated that second smoke is very harmful to the people who breath it in and is a threat to people's health and safety. Wichita also has over 18,000 food service employees that have to breath second hand smoke in every day. A survey conducted by the Tobacco Free showed that 65% of people would favor a ordinance that would ban smoking in public places. Studies of areas that have enacted ordinances have shown that non-smoking does not negatively impact businesses and businesses have actually shown an increase in the amount of customers. These businesses have also shown that employees utilize less six days and it also increases the effectiveness of the business because employees have more time to do other things like cleaning out ash trays.

**Dan Brown, 605 S Wessler**, stated that he would fight to the death for these people and their health but he feels that a middle ground should be found instead of banning smoking

from all public places. Mr. Brown felt that banning smoking from all public places would infringe on his and other peoples rights.

**Ray Rancuret, Delano Neighborhood Association President**, stated that he would be in favor of a restrictive ordinance. However, he cautioned that it should not be a requirement of all restaurants and bars because it should be left up to the property owner. Mr. Rancuret stated that this is a prominent issue for workers compensation and employees that work in a place of business that allows smoking in the future will be eligible for workers comp claims because of the damage to their health from smoke.

**Melissa Hawkens, South Palisade**, stated that her daughter has problems with ears when she is around smoke. She stated that her ears bleed, which has caused her daughter to have hearing loss.

**Ray Rancuret**, stated that non-smoking and smoking sections in restaurants do not work unless restaurants have the right systems setup.

**Council Member Gray**, closed the public agenda after no further comments were received.

### **Staff Presentations**

#### **Community Police**

**Officer Roets, Police**, the 28 beat coordinator has been working on a traffic issue from 31<sup>st</sup> to 235 where there are no turn lanes. Roets stated that he would like some individual from the neighborhood to get involved to help resolve the situation. **Council Member Gray** stated that there is money programmed into the capital improvements program that would expand Seneca and have turn lanes. **Officer Roets** stated that this would help to alleviate the current situation once the street is expanded.

**Officer Stevens, Police**, stated that auto larceny has risen in the last couple months and that he has been working with area apartment buildings to start watch programs. These programs have helped to decrease the amount of larceny. Stevens stated that on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June, the Southwest Neighborhood Association will be having a southwest cleanup.

#### **Action: Receive & File**

#### **Petition to pave Kessler, from north of Kellogg Drive to Taft**

**Rob Younkin, Public Works**, stated that signatures on the petition to pave Kessler, form north of Kellogg Drive to Taft, represent 12 of 20 (60%) resident owners and 32.58% of the improvement district area. The estimated project cost is \$144,000, with the total assessed to the improvement district. The estimated assessment to individual properties is \$.445 per square foot of ownership. Younkin stated that it is recommended that the District Advisory Board approve the petition.

**Doug Leeper**, asked why the driveways were not assessed to everyone in the area. **Younkin** stated that it is an issue of equity and that all property owners should not pay for the benefit of one individual property owner. The city does not pay for the approach to the driveway but if you want one then you have to request it from the city.

**Michael Gisick**, asked if curbing would be included in the project. **Younkin**, stated that there would be curbing and that if you have a driveway you must have an approach because it is illegal to drive over the curb.

**Council Member Gray** opened up the issue for public comment after no more questions were received from the DAB members.

**Dan Brown**, stated that he has a gravel drive and it appears that they have driveway approaches along the block. Brown asked about property owners that have no alley access but do not wish to have an approach. **Younkin** stated that they would have to park on the street since it is illegal to drive over a curb.

**Council Member Gray** asked if people are given a notice about the street paving project. **Younkin** stated that the construction company notifies the property owners before the paving begins. **Council Member Gray** asked if we could ensure that people will know property owners may ask for a driveway approach. **Younkin** stated that he was not sure about the formal process and how individuals are notified about driveway approaches.

**Ed Koon (McGinty)** moved that the District Advisory Board recommend approval of the project, the motion passed 6-0.

**Action: Recommend approval of petition to pave Kessler from north of Kellogg Drive to Taft.**

### **Offsite Billboard Regulation**

**John Schlegel, Planning Department**, the City Council asked to receive input from the District Advisory Boards regarding changes to the off-site billboard regulations. Schlegel stated that the Council is considering the large billboards that are located throughout the community. Schlegel stated that the off site billboard regulations were distributed in the packets and asked if anyone had any comments or questions regarding the regulations.

**Michael Gisick** asked what billboard signs caused this turmoil. **Schlegel** stated that billboards at 21<sup>st</sup> & Webb, 21<sup>st</sup> & Tyler, and 21<sup>st</sup> and Ridge Road. **Council Member Gray** stated that no billboards have been erected in District IV that residents have considered problems.

**Gisick** asked if there were any restrictions regarding the maintenance and upkeep of the billboards. He stated that he does not like the blighted signs because they look bad. **Schlegel** stated that the city does not have any regulations regarding upkeep unless they are considered a safety hazard.

**Leeper** asked if there were any screening requirements for billboards. **Schlegel** stated that buffering and landscaping requirements are in place for the billboards that are required by the zoning code.

**Council Member Gray** opened the meeting up for public comment.

A citizen asked if the owners of billboards have to get a permit and also if they have to notify area residents. **Schlegel** stated that billboards are permitted and that it is not a requirement to notify area residents.

**Doug Shame**, Operations Manager for Clear Channel stated that there is not usually a lot of housing that surrounds a limited commercial area so he felt it would be hard to notify area residences. He stated that the permit costs \$836 per sign and that his company would like to see a cap placed and the number of billboards in Wichita. Under this they would agree to not build a new sign unless one was taken down. He stated that they would like to do all they can to help the city and that his company has worked with the city on numerous occasions to provide billboard space.

**Ray Rancuret**, Delano Neighborhood Association President stated that in the case of 21<sup>st</sup> and Tyler the City of Wichita should notify area residents when a billboard is to be erected close to a residential area.

**Gisick** stated that he does not like the cap that Clear Channel would like for billboards.

**Council Member Gray** stated that he would like the DAB members to give input to Mr. Schlegel so that he may take this input back to the City Council.

**Ed Koon** stated that the city has a good sign ordinance and he realizes that location of these billboards is important to some people but he does not think it is a major issue. He felt that the city should leave things that way they are but look into the possibility of notifying area residents before a billboard is erected if it is in a residential area.

**Leeper** stated that he would like to see more emphasis on safety issues and would like the rest of the codes left alone.

**Jerry McGinty** stated that he wanted to emphasize that the city follow the current codes and variances to these codes should be minor.

**Gisick** stated that variances are important but they should not become extreme. He felt that they should regulate the businesses more than changing the rules.

**Council Member Gray** closed the session after no more comments were received.

**Action: Provided comments.**

## **Board Agenda**

**Gisick** stated that they have just finished with the Gang Force Activity Task Force and the Police Department is making suggestions to areas that are affected by a gang presence. The Southwest Neighborhood Association is also looking to expand the business alert system that they have started in cooperation with the Police Department.

**Leeper** stated that people should be careful out at Cheney because there has been an increase in gang activity at the lake.

**Council Member Gray** stated that he had received an apology from the person in charge of Cowskin Creek Reclamation Facility for not showing up for the DAB meeting. Gray stated that the DAB could take another visit at a later time if they wished to receive a tour of the facility. Gray stated that the hiring process for the City Manager is close to rapping up and George Kolb has unofficially accepted the offer. Gray stated that there was considerable citizen input throughout the process and the new manager is a talented man.

**Council Member Gray** asked for any further issues. With none presented, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Brandon Kauffman  
District IV Neighborhood Assistant**

<b><u>Guests</u></b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>
Lonnie Wright	1020 W MacArthur
Ray Rancuret	232 S Millwoord
Dale Virden	5111 S Meridian #23
Teresa Virden	5111 S Meridian #23
Becky Tuttle	1909 N Fredonc
Leroy and Gloria Venn	3113 S Waco
Louie and Ada McGregor	3349 Gold
Dwight Poyzer	332 Carlyle
Vera Schesser	3209 Heran
Jerry Boyd	414 Benway
Melissa Hawken	3319 S Palisade
Dave Schoer	229 N Clarence
Dan Brown	605 S Kessler
Ron Frary	3415 Southwood